

# THE COLONNADE

The Official Student Newspaper of Georgia College



## Alleged sexual assault victim is former GC student

See page 3 for more details

\*Obtained from National Sexual Violence Resource Center

Positivity Week brings puppies, pg. 6



GC Golf places fourth, pg. 11

WGUR hosts Local Noise, pg. 13





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## About This Issue...

The news section contains new information concerning the alleged sexual assault that occurred earlier this semester, an overview of the UP Project's Positivity Week, an explanation of the diversity issue with GC's publicity and a preview of GC's Earth Week events. Sports this week covers the softball and tennis teams as they prepare for the playoffs. There are also articles about senior baseball player Brandon Benson and the golf team's recent participation in the PBC Championship tournament.

The A&E section features coverage of the senior capstone art exhibit, the creation of a community mural, and coverage of WGUR's recent event, Local Noise.

The 2016-2017 Colonnade staff wants to thank our readers for a fantastic year. Look out for next week's issue, which will be produced by the 2017-2018 Colonnade staff.

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*\*All Opinion columns are the opinion of the columnist, not of The Colonnade.*

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## Alleged sexual assault victim is a former GC student

Emily McClure  
 and  
 Kellie Murphy  
 @gcsunade

The Colonnade has recently learned that the woman who reported being raped on GC's campus earlier this semester is a previously enrolled GC student who attended as recently as December 2016.

University officials, in emails distributed to the GC community on Feb. 25 and March 2, reported that the alleged victim was not a GC student.

The Colonnade does not name or identify sexual assault victims, but in accordance with our watchdog mission, The

Colonnade editors believe the GC community has the right to know the woman who reported being raped behind Bell Hall was a former GC student and classmate.

The Colonnade learned this information in the course of its reporting on the March 14 indictment of Jarvis Javion Lawrence, the Milledgeville man charged with rape.

In January, Lawrence was convicted of a felony with the offense of possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute.

According to the grand jury indictment, Lawrence has also been formally charged with:

- Aggravated sodomy
- Aggravated assault
- Kidnapping
- Possession of firearm by convicted felon
- Possession of a firearm

during commission of a felony

Andrea Taylor, GC Public Safety's lead communications officer, said GC officials were not intentionally trying to disassociate the alleged victim from the college by leaving out the detail that she was a former student.

"She was not an active student at the time, so we were not trying to disaffiliate," Taylor said. "She was just not an active student taking classes, so we did not say she was a student."

Public Safety's Sgt. Michael Baker, who wrote the original notice Public Safety published about the incident, said he does not think the student body necessarily has the right to know that the alleged victim was a former GC student. He said GC students, faculty and staff need

to be more concerned with their proximity to the location of an alleged crime than the people involved.

A representative from the district attorney's office said that the DA is unable to discuss the details of ongoing cases but said Lawrence's next steps include an arraignment, where he will announce his plea.

The Colonnade has made multiple attempts to contact the public defender representing Lawrence for comment, but he could not be reached.

The incident has caused some students like freshman Madison Tasker, a Bell Hall resident, to take extra precautions when walking around campus at night.

"It makes me feel somewhat unsafe, but I try to never walk alone at night anyway," Tasker



Photo Courtesy of GC Communications

Lawrence was indicted by a grand jury on March 14.

said. "If I do need to walk somewhere at night, I try to find someone to walk with me. Also, I walk with pepper spray in my purse. If I feel unsafe, I walk with it in my hand."

## GC publications misrepresent student diversity

Carson  
 Gregors  
 @gcsunade

The ethnic ratio of students featured in GC marketing publications misrepresents the diversity of the actual student body.

The 2016 – 2021 strategic plan booklet produced by GC, called "Our Path to Preeminence" displays 13 students in non-group photos. Five of these students are of an ethnic minority.

According to data collected from the Annual Survey of Colleges 2016, released by collegedata.com, GC's student population is 86.5% white. In the booklet, 65% of the students are white, marking the college appear to have a larger minority population.

Veronica Womack, chief diversity officer for GC's Office of Inclusive Excellence, said the college is aware that the publications do not accurately represent the diversity ratio on campus.

"There's one group that says we need to show we are interested in diversifying, so we put diversity in our materials," Womack said. "Then, you have a group that says, well that's not representative of

Georgia College."

The Office of University Communications develops and produces the publications. However, much of the design and content comes from the GC clients seeking the department's services.

"It has to reflect what they want," said Omar Odeh, associate vice president for strategic communications. "We've often proposed designs, but we typically get direction from the client in terms of what they are trying to communicate and what their objectives are."

Odeh said the clients often give the communications department's designer their own photos to use and that may be why one student will be featured in multiple publications within a certain department.

Additionally, when photo shoots for publications occur, a series of shots are taken. One of the photos may be used by the designer, who is unaware that a photo from the same series appeared in a different publication, said Odeh.

This repetition of the same student becomes more evident when that student is of an ethnic minority.

Tristan Watson, a junior mass communication major, is a black man who featured in a

promotional for the Division of Enrollment Management. Watson said he was contacted by the office to participate in the photoshoot and was later again asked to participate in a second one.

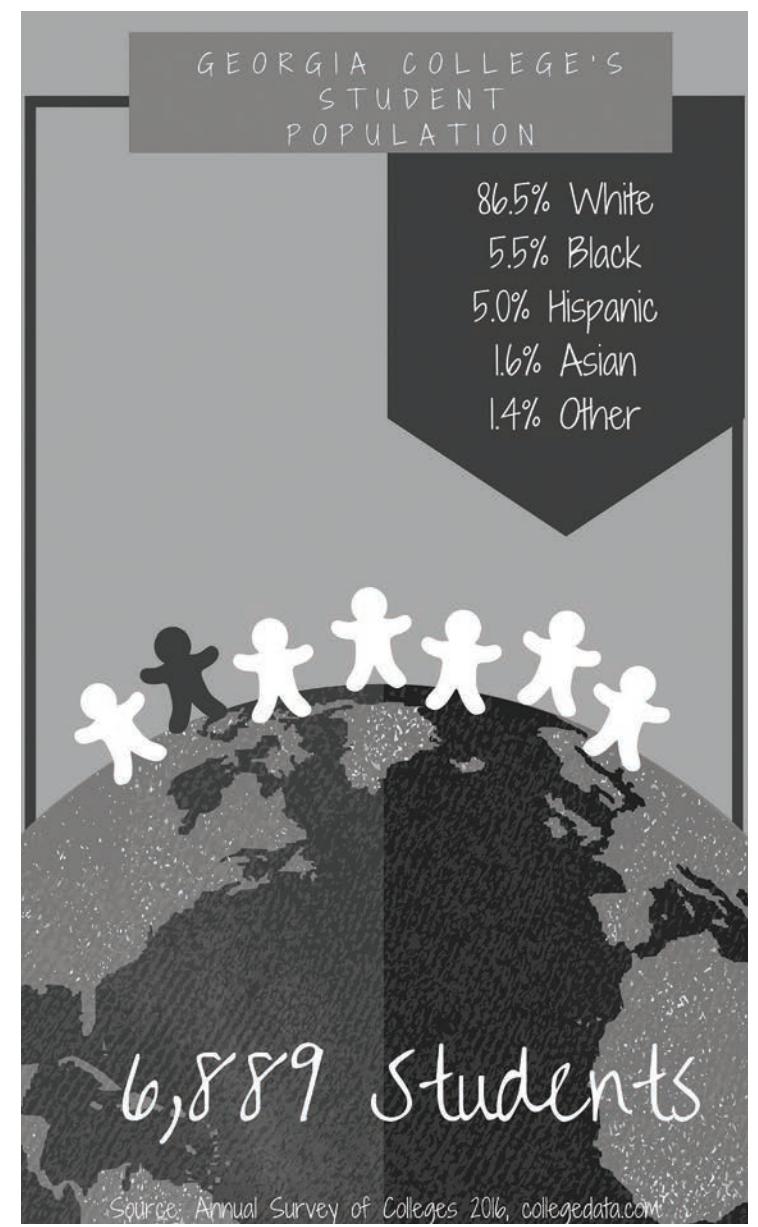
"I feel the university should be trying to make more efforts to actually increase its diversity rather than make the campus look like it is diverse," Watson said.

Odeh said discussion over the ethnicities represented within GC publications has surfaced before.

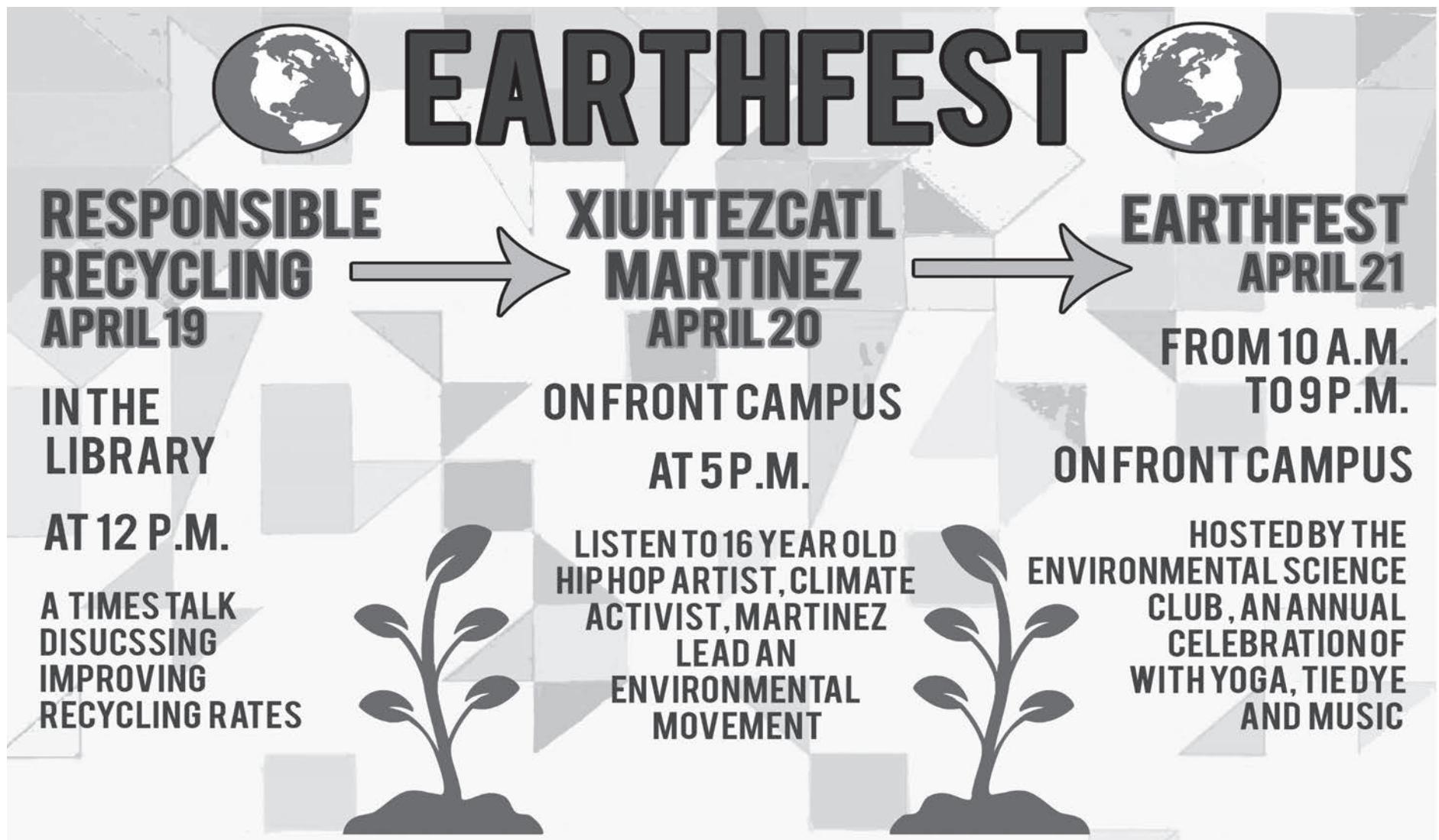
"We want students who are underrepresented to feel like they belong, even if there aren't many of them on campus yet," Odeh said.

Having worked at GC for a little over a year, Odeh said he lacks personal experience with the history of GC concerning diversity, but he has seen the efforts the college is making to diversify: hiring a diverse faculty and staff, establishing a research base to learn about diversity, and prioritizing the need to increase student diversity.

"It's not an easy thing to change overnight," Odeh said. "As long as the commitment is there and everyone has bought into the idea that this is important, we're going to see improvement."



# Earth Week to promote campus sustainability



Amy  
Huang  
[@gcsunade](https://twitter.com/gcsunade)

Earth Day on Front Campus on April 21.

The purpose of Earth Week is to raise awareness about sustainability efforts and show appreciation for the earth.

"It's something we do on campus to make people aware of what's going on," said Environmental Science Club president Kristen Doll, a senior and environmental science major. "It's a whole celebration of why we love the earth and why we should protect it."

Starting Monday, Feb. 17, the Theatre Department kicked off Earth Week with a play called "Don't Flush It," about protecting the water system from harmful oils and grease.

All week, the Environmental Science Club will be handing out homemade granola and selling raffles for the drawing on Friday at Earth Fest. Students have a chance to win gift cards to downtown businesses and other prizes, including four-person kayak trips.

Wednesday, April 19, will feature a Times Talk about recycling, which the sustainability department said is one of the major concerns relating to sustainability efforts on campus.

"Sustainability is about meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs," said sustainability coordinator Kristen Hitchcock.

Although many students attempt to be sustainable and

recycle through the options on campus like the recycling center at West Campus and designated recycling bins all over campus, many students misuse the system.

"Students should become educated on the in and outs of sustainability, such as making sure your bottles are empty before recycling. A lot of college students also don't know you can't recycle glass at the West Campus recycling center," Doll said.

The Sustainability Office is working on finding a way to recycle glass on campus, but in the meantime, the Environmental Science Club offers a way to recycle glass by collecting glass as a club and taking it to a separate recycling facility.

What makes this year's earth week at GC unique from other years is a symposium being hosted on Thursday led by Xiuhtezcatl Martinez. The 16-year-old climate activist is a successful speaker, who has presented to media groups and policy makers, including the United Nations.

"We weren't expecting him to be so willing to come to Milledgeville especially during such a busy time close to Earth Day," said Emma Brodzik, director of environmental affairs. "We have been planning it since the fall, so it has been a long time coming."

This year, Earth Fest is open to the whole community, with other schools also invited.

On Friday, April 21, the festival starts off with a morning and afternoon yoga. Throughout the day, tabling organizations, such as Garden Club and Student Adventures, will present arts and crafts.

"Gardening Club is one of the few environmental organizations at GC. We will be giving out plants, seeds and stickers," said Gardening Club president Andrew Wright, a senior and environmental science major.

Students will also be able to decorate their own recycling bins, tie-dye, and listen to live bands, such as UGA a cappella group Ecotones.

The Sustainability Office hopes that the event brings more awareness about the department and the sustainable efforts on campus.

"We want to spread the message of why we exist and why we are here," said Julia Steel, assistant director of environmental affairs. "Many students pay the sustainability fee without knowing where it goes, and we want them to know where this money is going."

The sustainability fee goes toward the new solar panels on Herty Hall, the recycling center at West Campus, the water brita stations, the gardening center, and the composting project at the Maxwell Student Union, among many other projects currently in the works.

As college students, it is easy to be bystanders, but protecting the environment shouldn't be overlooked, Doll said.

"You are bound to see trash at Bartram Forest or at the Greenway, and it's visually upsetting to me. It's taking away the beauty and affects the organisms living there," Doll said. "It's not just something you see scrolling on Facebook; it's something that happens locally."

But the Sustainability Office and the Environmental Science Club don't want Earth Fest to just be all serious. Their greater hope for Earth Fest is to bring people together to enjoy the outdoors.

"I'm hoping we have a good amount of people together to celebrate earth and life together as a campus and community," said junior Megan Goetz, a mathematics major. "I hope Earth Day initiates a response and passion for caring beyond just one day."

# 2017 Sounds of the South festival canceled

Chris  
Lambert  
[@gcsunade](https://www.instagram.com/gcsunade)

Sounds of the South (SOTS), both a local annual music festival and a GC recognized student organization, has become expected annually at GC since it began in 2012, but this year, the organization did not put on the popular music festival, leaving many questioning the status of the SGA-funded program.

According to SGA President Laura Ahrens, SOTS applied for funding from the Student Activities Budget Committee for the 2016 fiscal year, and received \$5,500 to be used for the festival that year. SOTS used none of that money, but the festival was still put on. They applied for and received \$7,000 more dollars for the 2017 fiscal year, to be used for this year's festival, but the event never happened.

The \$12,500 dollars claimed by SOTS will go into SGA's

unallocated funds account, to be used next year.

"Their leadership has waned a little bit, and in past years, there was a lot more involvement from their membership, which we just haven't seen this year," Ahrens said.

On Facebook in January, SOTS announced April 6 and 7 as the dates for this year's festival and promised to reveal an artist lineup shortly after, but the page does not feature an updated schedule, new artists or any other information about the missing event.

President-elect Mike Muller, who also serves on the SABC committee that allocated SOTS its funds, expressed his disappointment in the absence of SOTS this year.

"Sounds of the South received a large sum from SABC, and had profits from last year which could have been used for this year's Sounds of the South," Muller said. "I am sad we will not be able to experience SOTS this year."

SOTS is listed as an inactive RSO on Orgsync, and President Ahrens expressed her concern with the apparent lack of student involvement with the organization.

"SOTS only has one person registered on their OrgSync page, and with an organization of SOTS's size we typically see much more student involvement in order for it to be successful," Ahrens said.

The Colonnade made multiple email attempts to contact Jared Butler, the person listed on SOTS' Orgsync page as community service representative and treasurer, but he could not be reached for comment.

Junior MIS major Ben Fleck expressed frustration with the absence of the 2017 SOTS.

"We all really enjoyed going, it was like a mini Deep Roots, and really showcased the culture and talent we have here in Milledgeville," Fleck said. "It'll be sad not having it and I hope it comes back next year."



Sounds of the South posted this announcement to Facebook on January 28, but has been silent about the festival since.

## Exploring “The Strip”: A look into Milledgeville’s historic African-American business district

Gioia  
Brust  
[@gcsunade](https://www.instagram.com/gcsunade)

In downtown Milledgeville, a strip along McIntosh Street and Wayne Street embodies more history than many students know.

From the early 20th century to the end of segregation, this area was known as the “The Strip,” a collection of African-American businesses that served the people against whom the town discriminated.

Although African-Americans could shop in White-owned shops, many were subjected to prejudice while doing so.

Cashiers would often serve White shoppers before any Black shoppers, who were forced to wait for everyone else to be taken care of. When shopping for clothes, African-Americans were not allowed to try them on before buying.

Bob Wilson, GC's university historian,

said “The Strip” began with Wilkes Flagg, a prominent African-American man of Milledgeville in the late 19th century. Flagg owned a blacksmith shop in the heart of downtown and started “The Strip” along with Dr. Simmons, Milledgeville’s first black doctor and the owner of a downtown clinic.

“They provided a sort of nucleus for African-American business owners,” Wilson said.

African-American-owned businesses on “The Strip” were established to allow Blacks to shop with ease.

Although many African-Americans were free to apply for any job, they were usually hired only for service jobs, such as a barbers and tailors. They were not allowed to become policemen until the 1960s.

In a story about these businesses titled “The Strip,” George A. Freeman recalls when the first black cops were hired.

“The city hired two black police...to handle the blacks, and they was not allowed

to arrest white people, unless they called a white policeman,” Freeman wrote.

The strip was always busy, with patrons walking up the street shopping for groceries or getting a haircut and entertainers playing the guitar.

What happened to this once bustling street?

The only four buildings left in Milledgeville from this era are Allen Market, the Marlor House, Slater’s Funeral Home and Freeman’s Barber Shop, while the rest were knocked down and replaced with the Milledgeville Police Station.

“It happens to a lot of these African-American business districts,” said Molly Randolph, curator of “The Strip” exhibit at GC’s Sallie Ellis Davis House. “After these places were desegregated, why would you have two business that do the same thing? One that’s only catering to an African-American crowd, but now that they can go anywhere, so why would they only patronize that one place?”

Randolph said that even after

desegregation, African-American business owners struggled to obtain credit to buy goods for their stores, and without customers coming in, the businesses ultimately failed.

“So if you have an option to go to someplace with a lot more selection and maybe cheaper prices, wouldn’t you do that as opposed to a much smaller place with a lot less selection?” Randolph said. “That was a huge problem for a lot of African-American businesses.”

Senior Carolina Martinez, a criminal justice major, said she was surprised to hear that such a place once existed.

“I think there’s so much history in Milledgeville that we don’t know about, and I’m eager to check out the exhibit about it,” Martinez said.

For more information about the strip, visit the exhibit with the same name featured at the Sallie Davis House until May 17. Tours are given every Wednesday and Friday.

# Positivity Week aims to raise student spirits

William  
Anderson  
@gcsunade

The UP Project, a club aimed at unleashing positivity across campus, hosted its main event for the semester, Positivity Week, April 10 through April 13.

The week's events included handing out free baked goods at the fountain, an open mic night in Blackbird Coffee's basement, free hugs for anyone and a massive game of hide and seek. One of the most popular events of the week occurred on Wednesday, April 12, when club members brought puppies from the Animal Rescue Foundation to Front Campus. Students were invited to pet, play with, and take Polaroid camera photos with the dogs.

"I think the UP Project is extremely important, because especially as a psychology major I recognize that there are a lot of issues with mental disorders in our modern society, increasingly so over the past few decades, and putting a priority of supporting people I think is really important," said senior Sean Regan, a psychology major, while holding a puppy snuggled against his chest.

Junior Hunter Patrick, a French major and current UP president, started the UP Project after experiencing a rough freshman year.

"It was just completely horrible. Just completely horrible. I realized then I did not want anyone to go through anything like that, if I had a say," Patrick said. "So I created the UP Project to go help bring

out and stop that from happening to anyone else."

Patrick explained that he picked Positivity Week dates that would help to relieve the high stress levels students experience towards the end of the semester, while also accommodating other club members studies as finals week approached.

To reduce stress among the club members and split up the responsibility of planning Positivity Week, each UP officer led a specific day's event to ensure maximum success from each event hosted.

"Positivity for me, on one hand, is distracting myself from school," said freshman Allison McClure, a psychology major and UP Project secretary. "On the other hand, it's getting myself in a more overall happier state so that when I am doing studying I am not as stressed out. So I am more happy while studying, taking tests or writing papers."

Even though the UP Project was just focused on one specific week, the club hopes to open a happiness center similar to the Give Center. If created, the happiness center would consist of one or more places on campus where students would be able to relax and focus on simply being happy.

"I would love to see someone smile who doesn't typically smile," Patrick said. "I want to see that we made a difference in a person's life. The club has never been about promoting yourself, we've always been about promoting happiness and positivity and that's why I want to keep doing it. I don't want this club to be all about money. I don't want this club to be all about image. I want this club to be about happiness."



Pierce Maugans / Staff Photographer

Students play with puppies at Positivity Week's animal connection event.

## How the student judicial board evaluates cases

Amy  
Strang  
@gcsunade

This semester, public safety reports published in the Colonnade have documented students caught with extraordinarily high blood alcohol contents, drinking underage, possessing drugs in their dorms and many other illegal activities. Many of these stories end with the officer providing the student with a citation and referral to GC's student judicial board.

But what happens next?

When a student violates Georgia College's code of conduct or honor code, the student is entitled to a hearing before a group of student justices to dispute the accusation.

Student Attorney General Jack Bryan said a pre-hearing is often held between the accused student and Bryan in which they discuss options of accepting responsibility

or scheduling a student judicial board hearing.

"Not all offenses require a board hearing," Bryan said. "On any first offense alcohol or drug charge, we offer the accused student the ability to accept responsibility and complete a set of sanctions."

Bryan said these sanctions typically include a fine, community service, an online educational program, disciplinary probation and a parental notification. If a student disputes, he or she may have the chance to clear the charge through the judicial process.

Matt Roessing, faculty advisor for the student judicial board and assistant professor for accounting, said the most common offenses requiring the attention of the judicial board are academic dishonesty, underage possession of alcohol, and possession or use of illegal drugs.

Roessing said that when a student proceeds with a hearing, evidence is

presented on both sides to determine responsibility.

"Students accused of violations have the opportunity to know the accusations against them and the evidence that supports those accusations," Roessing said. "They have a right to respond and present evidence of their own."

The student justices hear the case and ask the student to leave the room during deliberation. The justices then vote on whether to hold the student responsible, Bryan said.

If the student is responsible, the justices then vote on sanctions.

When it comes to illegal activities, Georgia College Public Safety and the Milledgeville Police Department both have the ability to arrest students. Andy Lewter, dean of students, said most students who are arrested also go through the student judicial process.

"Depending on the situation, students

may be referred only to student judicial instead of being arrested," Lewter said. "GC Police can also refer students to the judicial process. Students who are caught doing illegal activities are reported to the GC Police."

Bryan said it is up to the discretion of public safety whether or not to send a student to them.

If a student is arrested by the Milledgeville Police Department or the Baldwin County Sheriff's Department, they can get out of student judicial, though they will still have legal ramifications.

Bryan said that occasionally the police officer or sheriff will discover that the offender is a GC student and will send the student to the judicial where the justices will decide on sanctions.

"We never want our students to feel punished by our sanctions, but we want them to learn and grow through the judicial incident," Bryan said.

# THIS WEEK AT GC

**A calendar of events**

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Women's and Gender Studies Symposium, Cont.  
Wed. April 19th @ 9 a.m.  
Blackbridge Hall 113



Panels from the 6th Annual Women's and Gender Studies Symposium cancelled during last week's inclement weather will take place, accompanied by a new keynote speaker.

Sustainability Fee Program Symposium  
Thurs. April 20th @ 5 p.m.  
Front Campus  
Xiutezcatl Martinez, a 16-year-old indigenous climate activist, will speak on his efforts to protect the environment for future generations.



Earth Fest  
Fri. April 21st @ 10 a.m.  
Front Campus  
The Environmental Science Club will host a festival including yoga, mural painting, tie dye, a raffle and live music to celebrate the earth and sustainability in the community.



Music at the Mansion  
Sat. April 22nd @ 6 p.m.  
Old Governor's Mansion  
The Georgia College Department of Music and Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion will partner together to host an evening of music, history and fresh spring air. Admission is free.

**All Week Long**

**Historical Exhibit: The Strip**

The Sallie Ellis Davis House is hosting an historical exhibit on Milledgeville's African-American business district, known as The Strip, that thrived from the early 1900s through the 1970s as a result of segregation. Tours are given every Wednesday and Friday.

**For more information, visit [frontpage.gcsu.edu](http://frontpage.gcsu.edu).**



\*Obtained from GC Department of Public Safety\*

### Scratch and run

**Date:** April 10

**Case:** A GC student filed a report with GC Public Safety concerning a scratch on her car. The student said she noticed the scratch, located on the rear passenger door, and estimated that it was made by another car some time between April 3 - 14. During this time-frame, the student traveled to various locations including Walmart, The Brick, Local Yolkal and the Milledgeville Toyota dealership. She filed the report because she said she needed it in order to review Walmart's camera footage. Lieutenant Purvis closed the case due to the long time-frame and unknown specific location at which the incident occurred.

### Underage possession tip

**Date:** April 11

**Case:** GC Public Safety received an anonymous tip from the online Silent Witness form. The student who submitted the tip stated he or she noticed alcohol bottles in the dorm room of a friend who was under 21. The reporter stated the friend's behavior had changed and that the reporter was worried for the friend's health. Due to the anonymous nature of the tip, public safety referred the tip to University Housing.

### Marijuana tip

**Date:** April 11

**Case:** GC Public Safety received an anonymous tip from the online Silent Witness form. The student who submitted the tip stated he or she had a friend who possessed several drug-related items on campus. According to the tip, the friend also admitted to having smoked marijuana while on campus and used a fake ID to purchase alcohol. Due to the anonymous nature of the tip, GC Public Safety referred the tip to University Housing.

**GO  
BOBCATS!**



**The Vickers Family**

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# SPORTS

Michael Campagna, Co-Sports Editor  
April 19-25, 2017 Steven Walters, Co-Sports Editor

## GC tennis teams set sights on postseason

Dallas Fletcher  
[@gcsunade](https://twitter.com/gcsunade)

Georgia College's men and women's tennis teams prepare for the playoffs at the No. 7 spot in the southeast region. Last week's matches were crucial to secure a seat in the playoffs.

Prior to last week's matches, head coach Steve Barsby said the team knew where they stood and they'd do everything they could to get the wins to secure a place in the playoffs.

"I'm pretty honest with the team in regards to telling them this is the situation we're in and this is what we need to do to get into the playoffs," said Barsby. "So hopefully that's enough to keep them on task because they know if we have a bad week it could knock us out of the playoffs."

The men's team has an overall 9-10 DII record and a 5-7 in-region record with a 3-7 PBC record for the season. Some injuries during the season hindered the team from reaching their full potential.

The women's team finished the season with an overall 11-9 DII record and a 6-3 in-region record with a 7-5 PBC record. Prior to last week's matches the team hoped to continue their winning streak into the playoffs.

"We're hoping to stay solid for the playoffs,



Photo Courtesy of Ada Montgomery

Kyle Kinsler (front) and Christian Graff (back) compete in last week's match against Flagler, in which the men's team lost 6-3 overall.

"we've been doing really well lately," said junior Emma Niemi. "So we're going to take one match at a time and perform our best."

On April 12, both Bobcat teams brought home 5-4 hard fought region victories against Wingate University.

On April 14, both teams we're defeated on the

road by Francis Marion University. The 6-3 upset ended the women's five-match win streak. The men's team finished the day with a 7-2 defeat on the road.

The Bobcats hosted Flagler College for the last home match of the season. The Bobcats were defeated by the Flagler Lions with the men falling 6-3 and women 7-2.

Prior to the matches, the women's and men's seniors were recognized. The two women's seniors honored were Macy Polk and Hannah Serdinia and the four men's seniors were Mattia Campus, Christian Graff, Kyle Kinsler and Anton Waern.

The Bobcats plan to put the regular season games behind them and focus on postseason play.

"We know the teams we're playing and we know most of the players we're playing," said Barsby. "Tennis unfortunately is a lot of repetition you do the same thing over and over, you've just got to do it better than the other guy."

Junior Pedro Ecenarro reinforced the idea that focus is going to be key in the match play from here on out.

"It's all about the match. You have to be focused on game day and try your best," said Ecenarro. "I will stay focused because I don't want to lose any matches."

The Georgia College Bobcats will face the Armstrong State University Pirates in The Peach Belt Championships on April 21 in Florence, S.C..



Photo Courtesy of Ada Montgomery

Jena Kelly (left) and Kristen Jones (right) return a serve in their match against Flagler. The women's team lost 7-2 in their final home match of the regular season.

# Bobcat softball team prepares for playoffs

Flanders said.

Kaylin  
Martinko  
[@gcsunade](mailto:@gcsunade)

After a 16-6 season, placing 3rd in the Peach Belt Conference (PBC), GC's softball team is preparing for the upcoming postseason.

The team said that its main approach heading into the playoffs is teamwork. At the plate, both junior Baylee Hall and senior Faith Flanders want to take it one step at a time, getting the runners to the next base and getting on a base themselves.

"If there's a runner on first, I just need to get them to second,"

After the departure of six senior starters, Flanders, a first baseman throughout her time at GC, had to step up and also pitch in 2017. She has played well on

**"We're just going to focus on one game at a time, one pitch at a time, one play at a time."**

*Jamie Grodecki,  
Softball Head Coach*

both sides of the ball, going 6-2 with a 3.61 ERA on the mound, while ranking 3rd in the PBC with 48 RBIs. Her mindset heading

into the playoffs is merely getting the job done.

"Win one game at a time...Just getting the team rallied together to win one game at a time and see where it takes us," Flanders said.

Similarly, GC softball coach Jamie Grodecki, who has been coaching GC's softball team for seven years, said that the team's main goal moving into the playoffs is to take it in stride.

"We're just going to focus on one game at a time, one pitch at a time, one play at a time," Grodecki said.

For Hall, it is the competition that drives her determination.

"This pitcher isn't getting me

out; I'm getting on that base," Hall said.

Because of the new additions to the team, coach Grodecki said that it took the team a little longer to get the team working together smoothly, but that all of the pieces began to fit together nicely during the first few conference series.

With the loss of many starting seniors and having a team comprised of mostly younger players, Hall knew that they had the potential to creep up on teams.

"Nobody thought we would make it this far. It's been real fun watching us surprise people," Hall said. "I just want to keep surprising people and say, 'Hey,

I know we're a young team, but we came here to play.'"

Last year Georgia College finished 4th in the PBC, while this year the team has placed 3rd. Hall attributed their success in the PBC this year to having a better approach at the plate.

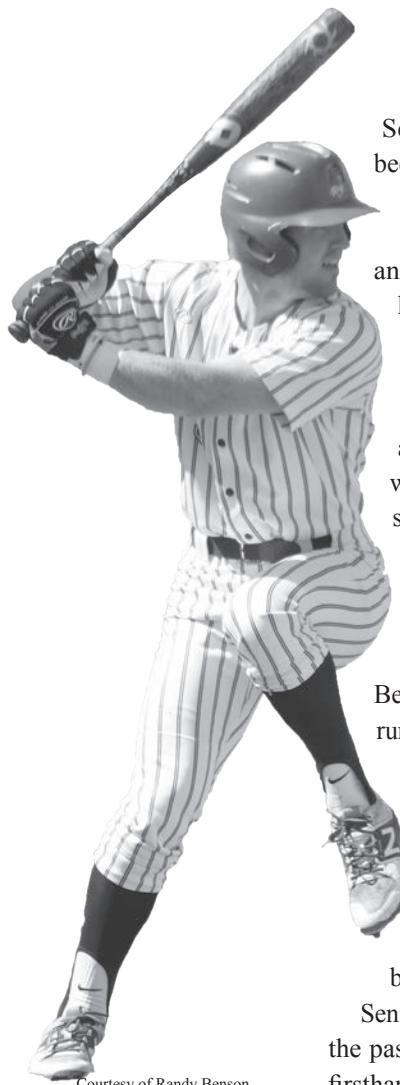
"This year, we've really preached the two-strike approach, which has definitely helped," Hall said.

The PBC Tournament Quarterfinal will take place on April 21.

"I think we can take it all," Hall said. "We have what it takes. If we just show up that day, we'll get a job done."



# Baseball's Benson among PBC's best in 2017



Courtesy of Randy Benson

Gabi Schwobe  
@gcsunade

Senior shortstop Brandon Benson has been named Peach Belt Conference (PBC) player of the week for the second time this season. The PBC award is given to an offensive player that performs at the highest level of all 13 teams.

Benson said that he has grown as a player throughout his college career.

"I've definitely matured with my approach at the plate," said Benson, who currently has more walks (21) than strikeouts (15).

Coming into the season, Benson had hit 21 home runs over three seasons with the Bobcats, but has hit 18 this season, which currently leads the PBC. Benson is also tied for first in the PBC in runs scored (58) and is second in RBIs (62).

Benson also said that he has matured on the mental side of the game.

"[Head coach Jason] Eller has really helped me with my mental game and slowing everything down, and being able to recognize things before they happen," Benson said.

Senior Brady Walsh, a teammate of Benson's the past four years, has seen Benson's career firsthand.

"He's an all-around great baseball player, he can hit a baseball, he can field a baseball and he can definitely throw a baseball," Walsh said.

Walsh also said that Benson's mentality is always positive.

"His attitude is great, he's humble and he plays the game the right way," Walsh said.

This season, the team has taken on a new mentality.

"When the stressful times come, we crack a joke to clear the air or Brady blows a bubble the size of Texas," Benson said.

This program has been very successful over the past few years, always finishing middle or top half of the conference, but Benson said they are having a lot more fun this year.

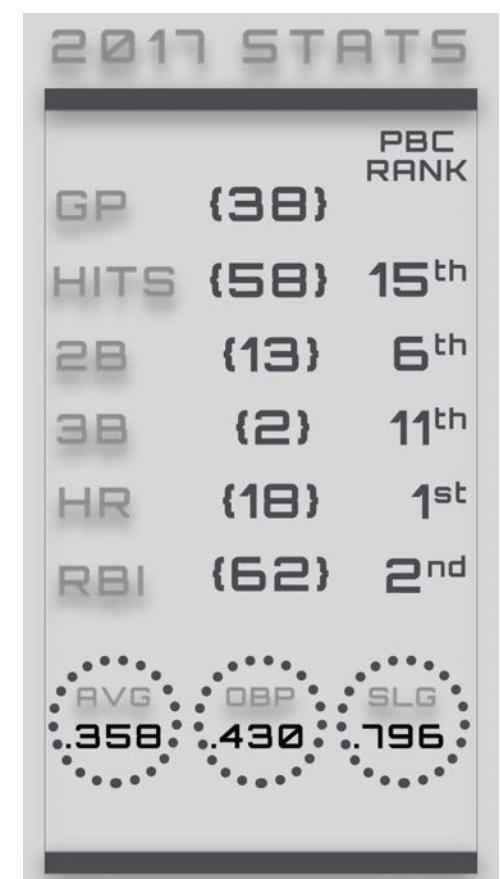
"This year has been better than others, as a team we really came together, so that has been nice," Benson said.

As to his future, Benson said that he doesn't like to think too far in advance.

"My hopes for the future right now is to win a national championship," Benson said. "I'm not too focused on after school, and whatever happens later on happens."

The baseball team has two more weeks in the regular season and is tied for second in the PBC with a 14-7 conference record. As a team, head baseball coach Jason Eller said the team knows to take it one game at a time and focus on what is in front of them.

"We are trying not to get too far ahead of ourselves, we adjust our goals on a daily basis, but right now we are in a pivotal race and we are trying to make a run at the regular season title," Eller said.



## GC golf takes fourth at conference tournament

Ben Lord  
@gcsunade

The GC men's golf team played a familiar course at Flagler University this past weekend, finishing 4th in the PBC Tournament, after a 9th place finish in 2016.

The Bobcats rode a recent surge, which started a few weekends ago after the team placed 3rd in the Bearcat Classic, a competitive 18-team event at the Greenwood Country Club in South Carolina.

Senior Harry Lambert obtained the highest score for the Bobcats in the Bearcat

Classic with a total score of 73 in the tournament. Fellow senior Conner Albright placed 13th with a score of 5-over-par.

Second-year head golf coach Patrick Garrett said the reasoning behind their successful run is their focus on individual golf fundamentals, as well as keeping practice repetitive in the right form.

"We don't take shortcuts when it comes to the basics and practice," Garrett said. "Golf is an individual game, so we like to give our players a lot of time to work independently on the issues they face on the course."

Coach Garrett also mentioned the familiarity with the course going into the

tournament, having played there in the fall.

"Most of the guys have seen the course at Flagler," Garrett said. "It's a very fun course for the team and the green rolls well."

Heading into the tournament, senior Conner Albright, an economics major, shared his experience with the course before the tournament started.

"It's important to play with the course and not against it," Albright said.

Albright and Lambert led the way for the Bobcats, tying for 14th overall in the PBC Tournament.

Lambert said with a big tournament like that, it was important to play calm and to



Courtesy of Sports Information  
Senior Harry Lambert placed 14th in the PBC Tournament.

not let past mistakes rattle your game.

"You really have to play your game and stay focused," Lambert said. "Playing consistent and in the present is what helps you in a competitive tournament like that."



## Capturing a life, an education

### Senior art majors showcase capstone projects

Lauren  
Neilly  
[@gcsunade](https://twitter.com/gcsunade)

On Thursday, April 13, The Georgia College Department of Art held a reception for the exhibition Proprium. Proprium featured artwork from nine different seniors at Georgia College as a capstone for the students and the exhibit showcased the art that they have been working on all year.

One of the seniors whose artwork was on display was Sarah Finch, who created four digitally-based collages. Each collage represented different stages of the Christian Gospel and testimony: creation, fall, redemption and restoration. Each piece was created on vinyl and depicted several different elements such as galaxies and plants and animals.



Senior art majors display their final capstone pieces for the public in the Ennis Hall gallery.

"My hope through the creation of these pieces is to challenge each viewer to think about where his or her own identity is found," said Finch, who plans to get her masters in art therapy after graduating.

Proprium exhibited a wide variety of mediums that expressed the students' passion. Brooke Sarver has focused on painting through her time studying art at GC. However, Sarver said other art channels have influenced her work and still show an importance in her capstone project. Sarver's photographs incorporate people who have made an impact on her life.

"Each piece has a titled number that represents the amount of days I have known the subjects to show that a person can play a significant role in your life regardless how long you have known them," Sarver said.

Although most students focused on a single medium,



Pierce Maugans/ Staff Photographer

some used multiple components to create their final work at GC.

Thomas Heald combined both digital and manual images on canvas. Heald's images have an intentional degraded look, which he creates in a lengthy process. Heald said that when he begins his projects, he is never sure what they will turn out like. Heald's unpredictable results show his spontaneity through his work.

"These pieces represent myself. Each symbol, texture, material, or image carries a personal story that is unique to my relationship with them," Heald said. "The deconstruction and reconstruction of the artworks represents the result of changing circumstances, maturity, and the degradation of memories over time with respect to nostalgic feelings."

## Proprium

Where: Ennis Hall in the Dorothy Leland Gallery

When: April 13 - 28

Gallery Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

# MOLLY MIXTAPES

*WGUR hosts event at Blackbird spotlighting local singers*

Local Noise is an event

Maddy  
Stone  
@gcsunade

hosted by GC's radio station,  
WGUR 95.3 The Noise. This  
event provides the opportunity

for local artists to show off their talent. Local Noise took place on Wednesday April 12 in the basement of Blackbird Coffee.

The event consisted of six different local artists who performed some of their own original songs. This event gave self-made artists the opportunity to provide entertainment while bringing light to their talent.

Erin Dickman, the PR manager for WGUR, started the event as a way to highlight local artists and their passions.

"It is my favorite event of the semester. I love music and I love helping people do the things they are passionate about," said Dickman, a sophomore and liberal studies major.

Dickman and her executive team find many of these local artists by organizing "couch concerts" throughout the school year where they invite local artist to play in their studio. The artist is recorded, a video is produced and published to YouTube, then the team puts the audio on a free mixtape.

"It was kind of a relief to have an opportunity to hang out with other artists and talk about songwriting because that really isn't an opportunity you get every day," said freshman Reed Brackett, an education major and participating artist.

WGUR is always looking for new talent to feature, so they use the event to show that the radio can be more than just radio. They are working to incorporate live music with their station and hope to expand.

The free mixtapes are created to help promote WGUR, as well as local artists around Milledgeville. WGUR travels to different venues around town to hand out merchandise and give away the mixtape CDs.

"We are working to expand through different mediums to help raise brand awareness for WGUR," Dickman said.

Support for WGUR and support for local artists go hand in hand because, as Ron Harris, a participating singer says, they both need audience support.

"Those that came to support really made the night. By coming out to a show like that they relay the message that they accept us as artists, and that has to be one of the most encouraging things," said Harris.



WGUR hosted local artists in the basement of Blackbird for a night of original live music. Below: WGUR gave away free copies of the mixtape that featured the performing artists.

Ashley Cooper/Staff Photographer





**Q:** If you could add another national holiday to spring, what would it be?  
**Compiled by Gioia Brust**



“Sunflower day.”

-- Raasha Gutierrez,  
freshman and art major



“Nap day.”

-- Morgan Weekly,  
sophomore and  
management major



“Picnic day.”

-- Ashlyn Nesbit,  
sophomore and creative  
writing major



## CONGRATULATIONS!

The Georgia College chapter of Phi Kappa Phi would like to congratulate the following new initiates who were selected for membership from the upper 7.5% of the junior class and the upper 10% of senior and graduate classes as well as faculty and staff members with a record of distinctive scholarly achievement.

### Alumnae Inductee

Ms. Brenda Mason

### Faculty/Staff Inductees

Dr. Tanya Goette  
Ms. Jeanne Haslam  
Dr. Chesley Sigmon Mercado  
Dr. Joseph Peters  
Dr. Indiren Pillay  
Dr. Holley M. Roberts  
Dr. Amy R. Sumpter  
Dr. Dale Young

### Graduate Student Inductees

Nicholas Avise  
Teresa A. Bates  
Amanda Board  
John Benjamin Boatright  
Lauren Mimbs Brazell  
Kimberly Michael Campbell  
Taylor Marie Campbell  
Sara Carey  
Terri A. Carty

Julie Andrews Cook

Allie Dale Doss

Gale Eligwe

Brandy Jean Ellis

Terri Morris Florman

Laura L Frawley

Hilary R. Hamby

Leah Nicole Harris

Stacy Henderson

Pamela Hill

Alan G. Johnson

Meagan Whittney Johnson

Georgia E. Knapp

Frederick C Koeck II

Kathryn C Livingston

Jessica Marcus

Ashley N. Phillips

Meagan Whittney Johnson

Georgia E. Knapp

Frederick C Koeck II

Kathryn C Livingston

Jessica Marcus

Ashley N. Phillips

Heather Prochaska

Dana Nicole Raines

Regina Marie Ridley

Danielle Rojas

Robyn Salter

Taylor Ann Smith

Matthew Ellis Taylor

Malcolm G Thomas III

Preston A Watson

John Michael Williams

Annie Wood

Brooke Eleah Woodard

### Senior Initiates

William Weycker Anda  
Carter Bloodworth  
Alexandra Brown  
Katherine Sophia Butcher  
David Capati  
Matthew Cornelison  
Hannah Coursey  
Holland Coursey  
Dorothy Elizabeth Denham

Matthew Dombrowski

Kayleigh "Kat" Dyches

Robert E Evans III

Isabelle Evans

Thomas Aaron Heald

Mary Helen Higgs

Megan Ann Hinman

Lauren Taylor Hovey

Alice Jacques

Sungmee Kim

Harry Blockley Lambert

Abigail LeRoy

Madison Lord

Victoria Elise McBrayer

Emily McClure

Ashley McKinney

Helen J. Meyers

Frank Brooks Nuss, Jr.

Caroline V. S. Olesen

McKensie Podell

Mallory Puckett

Patricia Pulliam

Margo Rothstein

MacKenzie Little Roux

Kathryn Shea

Helena Siewert

Madison Stansell

Elissa Stanton

Cameron Tate

Nicholas Torrance

Samuel Wentworth

Kaitlin Whitaker

### Junior Initiates

Emily Reagan Britton

Haley Curtin

Anna Deichsel

Marykathryn D'Olympio

Aaron Justice Dowling

Phillip Adrian Gault

Makayla B. Harrison

Tyler Bennett Hooks

Lindsey King

Kelsey Lambert

Kathryn Elizabeth McGraw

Jane Elizabeth Nutter

Jennifer O'Neill

Courtney Petersen

Victoria Layla Pitts

Katie Ray

Katie Scherer

Marshall Lee Smith

Caroline Sweeney

Margaret Taylor

Katy Beth Tinsley

Allison Elizabeth Wilkinson

# Community paints picture of diversity

Monica Klinkmueller  
and  
McKenzie Julian  
[@gcsunade](https://twitter.com/gcsunade)

On the exterior wall of Good Karma, a yoga studio in downtown Milledgeville, a group local Milledgeville residents is beginning work on a mural to give the south side of the town some color.

The idea for a mural began over a year ago, when Adam Crawford, a local artist, approached Dr. Clark Heindel, the owner of Good Karma, with the idea to paint a mural. Initially, the idea had little prospects financially since Good Karma had just hosted an art show and was low on funding.

"At the time, we didn't have the capital to do the mural and it didn't seem like fate. I wasn't dying to do it," said Heindel. "Then Ryan Loveeachother got a grant from one of the university departments to do a project for cultural diversity."

The grant gave Good Karma not only the needed funds, but also the idea to center the mural around the topic of diversity.

The mural was created in a style similar to paint-by-numbers, especially on the lower sections of the wall. This gave community members the opportunity to stop by and paint a little, with no painting experience required.

"I think part of it, being a private business, we can encourage the diversity. I think art is one way to do that," Heindel said. "It involves the whole community and there's a lot of artists outside of the college community, and we'd like to be a place where the college community and the Milledgeville community meet."

The painting of the mural was open to the community, with anyone welcome to come by and paint. Since the mural is abstract, it might be difficult for some to see where the focus of diversity is present, but within the beige and green triangles is a greater meaning.

"What we're going with is the harsh lines and the abstract triangles are representative of the geographical landscape of Georgia, but it also allows the community to



be represented," Loveeachother said. "It's on the south side of town so it's the gateway. Visually I think it's really going to show that this is a college town and that it's a very active college town."

Junior Frida Hooper Campos helped paint the mural on Saturday morning, taping out the triangles and then adding the paint. Campos studies art at GC, so spending her Saturday painting a mural was something she said she was happy to do.

"I think murals make a community a lot more inviting and more beautiful and I think Milledgeville could definitely use that," said Campos. "Milledgeville itself and the college are so separated, with the college being majority white and Milledgeville being majority African American. I think the mural can bring both types of people to come out and enjoy it and bring them together."

Sophomore Christian Jimenez also stopped by Good Karma on Saturday morning to lend a hand in the mural painting process.

"I have never participated in a mural before and I have never painted before, so this a new experience," Jimenez. "A mural will make the community better because it makes it beautiful and it makes the community be more involved."

Ada Montgomery/Senior Photographer

Local community members gather at Good Karma yoga studio to add personality to the building and bring an appreciation for diversity.





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